

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight (1) for vehicle wheels, ~~having the weight comprising~~ a weight body (7) which has a ~~concavely or convexly~~ curved contact face (2) for contact with a convexly or concavely curved rim portion (3, 5) of ~~the a~~ wheel, in particular with a rim flange (4), and having a clamping element (6) which is a selected one of (1) structurally integral or (2) is provided subsequently with a holding spring, wherein the contact face (2) is divided into plural consecutive lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e), which are defined from one another by bends (12), ~~characterised in that and wherein~~ at least three lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) are formed for contact with the rim portion and are joined together in a row via respective obtuse-angled bends (12).

2. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to claim 1, ~~characterised by the manufacture of wherein~~ the weight body (7) ~~from or comprising~~ is of a material selected from a group consisting of zinc, steel, copper, brass, tungsten, gold, silver, ~~and/or~~ an alloy comprising one or more of ~~the abovementioned of said~~ materials, ~~or and~~ another material or alloy, ~~which is respectively~~ harder than lead, including glass.

3. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that wherein at least one, more or all of the lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) extends along a circular curves or with respectively constant curvatures.~~

4. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to claim 1, ~~2, or 3,~~ characterised in that wherein the curvatures ~~or progressions~~ of the plural lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) are formed on the basis of at least two differently dimensioned radii of curvature (R1-R5).
5. (Original) Balancing weight according to claim 4, characterised in that a central one (11c) of the lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) extends on the basis of the largest (R3) of the radii of curvature (R1-R5).
6. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterised in that claim 1 wherein at least one of the lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e), ~~optionally a central one (11c),~~ extends a selected one of (1) rectilinearly or (2) on the basis of an infinitely long radius of curvature.
7. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to ~~one of claims 1 to 5,~~ characterised in that wherein the contact face (2) is formed exclusively with the curved lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) on the basis of radii of curvature (R1-R5) which are smaller than infinite.
8. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterised in that claim 1, wherein two outer lateral sections (11a, 11e) which form the two ends (8) of the contact face (2) are curved respectively on the basis of the smallest (R1, R5) of the radii of curvature (R1-R5).
9. (Original) Balancing weight according to claim 8, characterised by the use of at least three entirely or partially differently sized radii of curvature (R1-R5) for shaping the lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e), the largest radius of curvature (R3) being allocated to a middle lateral section (11c), and

the smallest radius of curvature being allocated to the two end lateral sections (11a, 11e) of the contact face (2).

10. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to claim 9, ~~characterised by the use of~~ wherein the weight exhibits at least three ~~entirely or partially~~ differently sized radii of curvature (R1-R5) for shaping the lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e), the radii of curvature (R2, R4) lying between the largest and smallest radius of curvature (R3, R1) in size being allocated to lateral sections (11b, 11d) which lie between the middle (11c) and the two end lateral sections (11a, 11e).

11. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised by claim 1, wherein~~ at least three of the lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) respectively following one another are provided with different radii of curvature (R1-R5).

12. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to claim 1 ~~or 5, characterised in that~~ wherein the lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e; Fig. 5) are a selected one of (1) exclusively rectilinear or, and (2) extend on the basis of an infinitely long radius of curvature and form an open polygonal section.

13. (Original) Balancing weight according to claim 12, characterised in that hypothetical extensions of lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) form acute angles (α , β , δ , γ) with adjacent lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e).

14. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to ~~one of claims 12 or 13, characterised in that~~ wherein the acute angles (α , β , δ , γ) increase as the distance from the middle region (9) increases and ~~or~~ are largest in the lateral sections (11a, 11e) in the end regions (8).

15. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to claim 1, characterised in that the curvatures of the individual lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) are at least one of not constant, ~~and/or~~ correspond to the progression of a parabola, a hyperbola and/or an ellipse.

16. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised by claim 1, wherein~~ identically formed lateral sections (11a, 11e; 11b, 11d) ~~in particular~~ are formed in pairs with respect to a hypothetical line of symmetry.

17. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the clamping element (6) is cast centrally ~~and/or is composed of~~ spring steel.

18. (Currently Amended) Balancing weight according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the bends (12) have different distances from one another.

19. (Currently Amended) Method of manufacturing a balancing weight (1) ~~according to one of the preceding claims~~ for vehicle wheels, having a weight body (7) which has a ~~concavely or convexly~~ curved contact face (2) for contact with a convexly or concavely curved rim portion (3, 5) of the wheel, in particular with a rim flange (4), wherein the contact face (2) is divided into plural consecutive lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) which are defined with respect to one another by bends (12), ~~characterised in that~~ and wherein the contact face is formed with a number $n = 3, 4, 5, \dots$ of consecutive lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e) which follow one another respectively with different radii of curvature (R1-R5).

20. (Currently Amended) Method of manufacturing according to claim 19, characterised in that the associated radii of curvature $R_1, R_2, \dots R_n$ are each constant and are dimensioned according to the following rules:

a) the first radius of curvature R_1 is to the left-hand (or right-hand) end of the contact face and the last radius of curvature R_n is to the right-hand (or left-hand) end of the contact face;

b) $u < R_1, R_n < o$, wherein u is a lower and o an upper measure for the radius of curvature;

c) with the following case distinction:

Case A: n is an even number and is at least 4: $o = 4, 6, 8, \dots$ etc.

$$u < R_1 < o$$

$$R_2 > R_1$$

$$R_3 \geq R_2$$

$$R_4 \geq R_3$$

$$R_5 \geq R_4$$

...

$$R(n/2) \geq R(n/2-1)$$

$$R(n/2+1) \leq R(n/2)$$

$$R(n/2+2) \leq R(n/2+1)$$

...

$$R(n-1) \leq R(n-2)$$

$$R_n < R(n-1)$$

$$u < R_n < o$$

Case B: n is an odd number and is at least 3: $n = 3, 5, 7, \dots$ etc.

$$u < R_1 < o$$

$$R_2 > R_1$$

$$R_3 \geq R_2$$

$$R_4 \geq R_3$$

$$R_5 \geq R_4$$

...

$$R((n+1)/2) \geq R((n+1)/2-1)$$

$$R((n+1)^2+1) \leq R((n+1)/2)$$

$$R((n+1)^2+2) \leq R((n+1)^2+1)$$

...

$$R(n-1) \leq R(n-2)$$

$$R_n < R(n-1)$$

$$U < R_n < o$$

21. (Original) Method of manufacture according to claim 20, characterised in that the radius of curvature is at least $u = 120$ mm and at most $o = 600$ mm.

22. (Currently Amended) Method of manufacture according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ claim 20, wherein at least one of the radii of curvature (R_1 - R_5), preferably one allocated to a middle lateral section (11c), is dimensioned with an amount going towards infinity.

23. (Currently Amended) Method of manufacture according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ claim 20, wherein at least a middle one of the lateral sections (11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e), ~~in particular a middle one (11e)~~ is dimensioned with a ~~curved or linear~~ length of about 40 mm to 60 mm.